



## IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### NOTICE OF REGULAR TELECONFERENCE MEETING & AGENDA

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

May 15, 2014, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. MT

Idaho State Capitol Building  
700 West Jefferson Street, Room EW 42  
Boise, Idaho 83702

TELECONFERENCE # (888) 706-6468 Passcode: 6913014

Live streaming is available online at: <http://www.idahoptv.org/insession/leg.cfm>

The Commission will occasionally convene in Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345.

Executive Session is closed to the public.

#### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE

*The meeting will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission at (208) 332-1790 or [Info@swc.idaho.gov](mailto:Info@swc.idaho.gov) so advance arrangements can be made.*

*Members of the public may address any item on the Agenda during consideration of that item. Those wishing to comment on any agenda item are requested to indicate so on the sign-in sheet in advance. Copies of agenda items, staff reports and/or written documentation relating to items of business on the agenda are on file in the office of the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission in Boise. Upon request, copies can be emailed and will also be available for review at the meeting.*

	<b>1. WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTIONS, AND ROLL CALL</b>	Chairman Wright
	<b>2. AGENDA REVIEW</b> <i>Agenda may be amended after the start of the meeting upon a motion that states the reason for the amendment and the good faith reason the item was not included in the original agenda.</i>	Chairman Wright
	<b>3. PARTNER REPORTS</b>	
	a. IASCD, NRCS, IDEA, DFM, Admin	
	b. Idaho Rangeland Resource Committee Partner Report	Gretchen Little Hyde Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission
	<b>4. ADMINISTRATION</b>	
*#	a. Minutes 1. April 10, 2014	Chairman Wright

(\*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Thurs., May 15, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: May 8, 2014

		ACTION: Approve	
*	b.	Financial Report <i>(to follow under separate cover or be distributed at the meeting)</i> 1. April 30, 2014 ACTION: Approve	Murrison
*#	c.	Administrator's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employee recognition</li> <li>Activities</li> <li>Commissioner Protocol</li> <li>Financial report review procedure</li> <li>EPA Water Quality Standards/Fish Consumption</li> </ul> ACTION: For information and possible direction	Murrison
#	d.	FY 2015-2018 ISWCC Strategic Plan ACTION: For information only	Murrison
*#	e.	Amended FY 2015 Budget Blueprint ACTION: Approve Amended FY 2015 General Fund Blueprint, including setting Trustee and Benefit fund distribution at: \$425,000 in base funding, \$678,200 in match formula funding, \$50,000 in Operating funding, and \$50,000 in Capacity Building funding.	Murrison
	<b>5.</b>	<b>PROGRAMS</b>	
#	a.	District Support Services Update 1. District Technical Assistance Requests, Review Process & Timeline 2. Distribution of Annual District Survey ACTION: For information only	Trefz
#	b.	Rangeland Conservation & Resource Development Program 1. Program Activities 2. Loan Fund Financial Report (March 2014) ACTION: For information only	Hoebelheinrich
	<b>6.</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>	Chairman Wright
	a.	Reports ACTION: For information only	
	<b>7.</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SESSION</b> <i>Executive Session is closed to the public. Under the relevant Idaho Code Sections noted below, all Board action will be taken publicly in open session directly following Executive Session.</i>	
*#	a.	Rangeland Conservation & Resource Development Program <i>Pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345(d), the Commission will convene in Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing Loan Applications:</i> 1. Loan # A-564: Appeal of denied loan application	Hoebelheinrich

(\*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Thurs., May 15, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: May 8, 2014

		ACTION: For consideration and possible action	
	b.	<b>RESOURCE CONSERVATION &amp; RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</b> <i>Pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345(f), the Commission will convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.</i> 1. Loan #A-517 ACTION: For information only	Hensley
*	8.	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b> <i>The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2014 in Boise.</i>	Chairman Wright

(\*) Action Item

(#) Attachment

ACTION: Staff recommended action for Commission Consideration

Thurs., May 15, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda

Date of Notice: May 8, 2014



## Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

650 W. State St., Room 145 • Boise Idaho 83720

Telephone: 208-332-1790 • Fax: 208-332-1799

[www.swc.idaho.gov](http://www.swc.idaho.gov)

### IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING & TELECONFERENCE

**Date and Time:**

Thursday, April 10, 2014  
From 8:00 am – 12:00 pm MST

**Location:**

Idaho State Capitol Building, Room EW 42  
700 West Jefferson Street  
Boise, Idaho

#### DRAFT MINUTES

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**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Norman Wright	Jerry Trebesch
Dave Radford	Leon Slichter

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT via teleconference:**

Roger Stutzman

**COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:**

1 Teri Murrison	Terry Hoebelheinrich
2 Cheryl Wilson	Jan Webster
3 Ali Hardy	Delwyne Trefz

4

**PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:**

5 Harriet Hensley, Office of the Attorney General  
6 John Homan, Office of the Attorney General  
7 Anita Hamann, Division of Financial Management  
8 Shelby Kerns, Division of Financial Management  
9 Ray Houston, Legislative Services Office  
10 Keith Reynolds, Department of Administration  
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**PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT via teleconference:**

13 Robbie Taylor, Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA)  
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**ITEM #1: WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Jerry Trebesch, Dave Radford, and Leon Slichter were present. Commissioner Roger Stutzman was present via teleconference.

**ITEM #4a: MINUTES**

Action: Commissioner Trebesch moved to approve the March 13, 2014 Minutes as submitted. Commissioner Radford seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ITEM #4b: FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Action: Commissioner Radford moved to approve the March 31, 2014 Financial Report as submitted. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ITEM #4c: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Action: None, for information only.  
Commissioner Stutzman left the meeting at 8:56 a.m.

**ITEM #4d: FY 2015 BUDGET BLUEPRINT**

Action: Commissioner Radford moved to approve the Amended FY 2015 Budget Blueprint as submitted by staff with the following changes:

- General Fund Budget Blueprint, under Personnel Highlights, remove "administrative" from "Assumes some related field staff and administrative time in RCRDP fund";
- Dedicated Funds Budget Blueprint, in Revenue table, correct "Approximate Cash on hand 7/1/2015 to "... 2014".

Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Commissioner Stutzman was absent. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A short break was taken from 9:53 to 10:06 a.m.

**ITEM #5a: DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATE**

Action: None, for information only.

**ITEM #5b: RANGELAND CONSERVATION & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Action: None, for information only.

**ITEM #5c: RANGELAND CONSERVATION & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM LOAN FUND FINANCIAL REPORT**

Action: Commissioner Radford moved to approve the February 2014 RCRDP Loan Fund Financial Report as submitted. Commissioner Slichter seconded the motion. Commissioner Stutzman was absent. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ITEM #6a: REPORTS**

Action: None, no reports given.

**ITEM #7: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Action: Commissioner Radford moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2345(d) for the purpose of reviewing Loan Applications, and pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345(f) for the purpose of discussing controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Roll call: Chairman Norman Wright, Commissioners Jerry Trebesch, Dave Radford, and Leon Slichter were present. Commissioner Stutzman was absent. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Executive session commenced at 11:03 a.m. Ms. Murrison, Mr. Hoebelheinrich, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Webster, Ms. Hardy, Deputy Attorney General Harriet Hensley, and John Homan were present during Executive Session.

Executive Session ended at 12:05 p.m. Commissioners reconvened in Open Session at 12:05 p.m. and took the following actions:

**ITEM #7a1: LOAN # A-676**

Action: Commissioner Radford moved to grant a six-month extension to complete project installation for Loan #A-676 at the borrower's request and pursuant to the loan officer recommendation. Commissioner Slichter seconded the motion. Commissioner Stutzman was absent. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ITEM #7a2: LOAN # A-684**

Action: Commissioner Radford moved to approve Loan #A-684 in the amount of \$94,000 for a term of 7 years at a 2.5% interest rate, pursuant to the loan officer's recommendation, but excluding the easement, as the application meets criteria for conservation benefit and meets the loan criteria established in IDAPA 60.05.01 and loan policy. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Commissioner Stutzman was absent. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ITEM #7a3: LOAN # A-685**

Action: Commissioner Radford moved to approve Loan #A-685 in the amount of \$50,600 for a term of 7 years at a 2.5% interest rate, pursuant to the loan officer's recommendation subject to completion of the district ranking form, as the application meets criteria for conservation benefit and meets the loan criteria established in IDAPA 60.05.01 and loan policy. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Commissioner Stutzman was absent. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ITEM #7a4: LOAN # A-240**

Action: Commissioner Radford moved to issue an overpayment refund for Loan #A-240. Commissioner Trebesch seconded the motion. Commissioner Stutzman was absent. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ITEM #7b1: LOAN # A-517**

Action: None, for information only

**ITEM #8: ADJOURN:**

107 The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be held on  
108 Thursday, May 15, 2014 in Boise.

109  
110 Respectfully submitted,

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114 Jerry Trebesch, Secretary

DRAFT



## IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 4c

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH**  
**FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR**  
**DATE: MAY 7, 2014**  
**RE: ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### Public Employee Recognition Week

Governor Otter issued the attached Proclamation designating May 5-9, 2014 as Public Employee Recognition Week. In issuing the Proclamation, the Governor recognizes Idaho's public servants for their compassion, professionalism, and commitment in dedicating their careers to public service. He also seeks to remind the citizens of Idaho of the importance of public service.

In addition to joining the Governor in recognizing all ISWCC employees, two longtime Commission employees – Mark Hogen and Chuck Pentzer - achieved a major milestone recently: serving the Commission and voluntary conservation for a quarter of a century!

Attached is a copy of the recent newsletter article Ali Hardy wrote about Mark and Chuck. We're planning to have all available staff call in via teleconference or video. Mark received a 25-year certificate of commendation from the Governor last summer. Chuck Pentzer will be at the meeting to receive his.

### Activities

Since your last meeting, the Envirothon was held in Challis. I attended with Chairman Wright and Commissioner Radford. Commissioners will discuss the event in Reports.

### Commissioner Protocol

The Board is asked to discuss and determine how Commissioners would like to be addressed by staff in meetings and socially.

Financial report review procedure – The administrator is required to review financial reports with the Chairman to ensure accountability and that the Board is well informed about the administration of the Commission. Previous Chairman Dick Bronson delegated Commissioners Trebesch and Radford to regularly review ISWCC financial statements in his stead; however that Committee expired when Chairman Wright was elected to lead the Board in July 2013. Since then, Chairman Wright, assisted by Commissioner Trebesch, have performed reviews with the administrator (when reports have been available timely) prior to meetings.

There are two options going forward: either the Chairman can continue to review reports with the administrator and call in another Board member to help when necessary, or a new committee can be appointed, meetings noticed publically, and conducted formally. Staff requests the Chairman's direction on these reviews.



## IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

EPA Water Quality Standards/Fish Consumption The EPA is pressuring states, including Idaho, to adopt stringent Human Health Water Quality Criteria (HHWQC) which serve as the basis for state water quality criteria and the issuance of Clean Water Act permits. Attached for your information is a copy of a flyer published by IACI and presented to the Idaho Food Producers in April.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For information and possible direction.

Attachments:

- Governor's Proclamation, May 5-9, 2014
- Newsletter article: Longtime ISWCC staff reflect on a quarter-century of conservation
- IACI flyer on Idaho State Water Quality Standards/Fish Consumption



*Executive Department  
State of Idaho*

*The Office of the Governor*  
***Proclamation***

*State Capitol  
Boise*

*WHEREAS, public employees at the federal, state, county and city levels dedicate their careers to public service by contributing to professional industries, such as health care, education, public safety, conservation and national defense; and*

*WHEREAS, these dedicated public servants perform their duties with compassion, professionalism and a commitment to those they serve; and*

*WHEREAS, the importance of public service provided by public employees and volunteers is too often forgotten or ignored; and*

*WHEREAS, it is appropriate to designate a Public Employee Recognition Week to honor and recognize all public employees and remind the citizens of Idaho of the importance of public service; and*

*WHEREAS, Idaho is honored to join other states across the nation during the week of May 5-9, 2014, to extend our appreciation and gratitude to all public employees for their continued spirit of dedication;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim May 5-9, 2014 to be*

***PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION WEEK***

*and May 7, 2014 to be*

***STATE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DAY***

*in Idaho.*



*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 2nd day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-eighth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-fourth.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "C.L. Butch Otter".

**C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ben Ysursa".

**BEN YSURSA  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

# LONGTIME ISWCC STAFF REFLECT ON A QUARTER-CENTURY OF CONSERVATION

**Two ISWCC Conservationists look back at careers that have spanned over 25 years, and recall the changes along the way.**

Mark Hogen joined the Conservation Commission in 1988 at the St. Anthony field office. The following year, Chuck Pentzer also joined the Commission in Craigmont. At that time, the Commission was called the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, and it was housed within the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). The Commission was comprised mostly of soil scientists; however Mark and Chuck were two of the first Water Quality Resource Conservationists hired.

A large part of their duties was to implement State Agricultural Water Quality Programs (SAWQP) throughout their respective conservation districts. SAWQP, co-administered by the Commission and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), was designed to protect and enhance the quality and value of Idaho's water resources by financially assisting the conservation districts in the control and abatement of water pollution from agricultural lands, including cropland, rangeland, and grazeable woodland.

At that time, Mark and Chuck spent the majority of their days in the field, and covered smaller geographical areas. These days, their territories span multiple counties, and although they are still getting their boots dirty, they often find themselves on a video conference, at-

tending division meetings, and logging miles in their pickups, in order to serve their various districts.

As Mark and Chuck look back at careers as conservationists that have spanned over 25 years, certain events stand out.

Mark recalls when the Commission was designated as the lead agency for TMDLs in 1997. A Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still safely meet water quality standards. "That was a huge game-changer. Soon after, the organization moved to the Department of Agriculture and it was a big change for the staff and administration."

Another big change? Technology. According to Mark, "Computers were another major game-changer." Chuck added that the introduction of cell phones has made his job safer and more efficient. "We never had two-way radios like some other agencies, so when cell phones came along that was a big deal."

Like many agencies, the Commission has lost funding during difficult economic times, and programs like SAWQP are no longer operating, however they note that the mission remains intact. "We are still saving the same soil," Mark says. Adds Chuck, "I believe after all this time we still hold that core belief, that we are here to serve and help landowners and districts."

"Working with producers, gaining their



Mark Hogen



Chuck Pentzer

trust and building those relationships is a very rewarding part of this job," Chuck says. He also points out that what he believes has contributed to the longevity of his and Mark's service to the Commission is the variety that comes with the job. "No two days are ever the same. That variety keeps things interesting and helps us continue to grow." ▢

## COMMISSION

H. Norman Wright, *Chairman*  
Roger Stutzman, *Vice Chairman*  
Jerry Trebesch, *Secretary*  
Dave Radford, *Commissioner*  
Leon Slichter, *Commissioner*  
Teri Murrison, *Administrator*



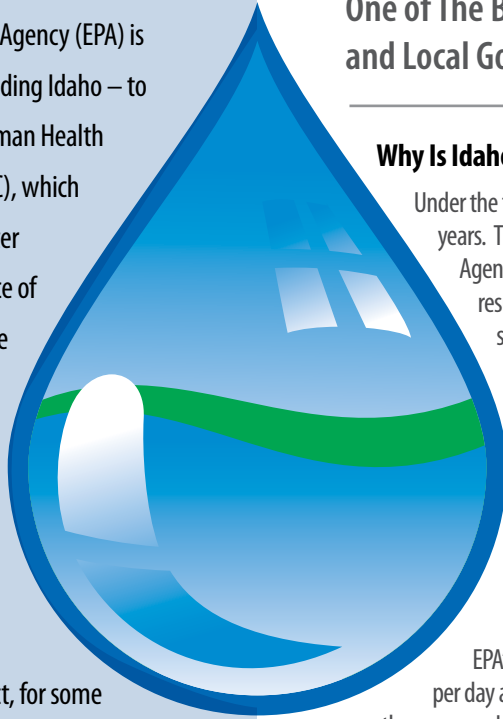
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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*Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing Seeds of Stewardship*

## The Issue At A Glance

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pressuring some states – including Idaho – to adopt extremely stringent Human Health Water Quality Criteria (HHWQC), which serve as the basis for state water quality criteria and the issuance of Clean Water Act permits. These human health criteria are so restrictive that employers and municipalities may not be able to meet the resulting water quality permit limits with existing and foreseeable treatment technologies. In fact, for some substances, the resulting permit levels could require the water discharged by a user to be cleaner than the water withdrawn from the source. An unattainable standard can damage the local economy by imposing extremely high treatment costs that impair employers' ability to maintain existing jobs and create new ones, and by forcing municipalities to pass along increased treatment costs in the form of higher utility rates and taxes. Additionally, an unduly restrictive standard would impede growth and development, as municipalities struggling to comply could be forced to declare moratoriums or place limits on new sewer hook-ups. Finally, non-compliance with these stringent water quality standards opens a permit holder up to expensive and time-consuming lawsuits – even if the state regulatory body authorizes an incremental approach to compliance. Despite these concerns, special interest groups and environmental organizations continue to portray this as an “environmental justice” issue and push EPA to take a more aggressive stance in directing state efforts.



## Idaho State Water Quality Criteria:

### One of The Biggest Regulatory Issues Facing Idaho Employers and Local Governments

#### Why Is Idaho Adopting New Water Quality Criteria?

Under the federal Clean Water Act, states must revise their water quality standards every three years. These revisions are overseen by regional offices of the Environmental Protection Agency, usually in accordance with guidelines developed by EPA headquarters. The resulting standards are used as the basis for pollutant reduction programs, issuing state water permits for industrial and municipal dischargers and for water and sediment clean-up programs.

Human Health Water Quality Criteria (HHWQA) are one component of state standards. They are developed using a complicated formula, with a number of variables. Two of the most important variables are the assumption made about how much fish people eat (the fish consumption rate) and a factor (called the relative source contribution) that accounts for the chance that people can be exposed to contaminants through other means, such as inhalation or ingestion.

EPA's official guidance on these two issues is for a fish consumption rate of 17.5 grams per day and relative source contribution factor of 0.2 to account for risks to consumers from other sources. However, as has been shown in Oregon, EPA Region 10 (which includes Idaho, Oregon and Washington) is not necessarily adhering to the federal guidance and is considering issuance of “regional guidance” – presumably more restrictive – to supplement the federal guidance.

#### Why Does It Matter How Much Fish People Eat?

Assumptions about how much fish people really eat have a huge impact on water quality criteria, so this is a critical number. EPA's current fish consumption rate guidance of 17.5 grams per day is equivalent to about 18.5 ounces or 2-3 cans of tuna per month. But when Oregon proposed that same amount in keeping with EPA's guidance, it was rejected by EPA Region 10 as inadequate. This action, along with EPA's direction, led the State of Oregon to eventually adopt a fish consumption rate of 175 grams per day – *ten times* the EPA's own guidance. This higher figure assumes that Oregon's population on average consumes nearly 12 pounds of fish per month. Oregon also adopted a very high risk standard that highly exposed sub-populations (e.g. high fish consumers) should face no more than a one-in-a-million additional risk of cancer from consuming fish.

But this is a complex issue, and other factors besides the total quantity of fish consumed should be factored into the fish consumption rate. Some popular species, like tuna and halibut, don't come from fresh water, so state water quality standards don't impact the safety of eating them. Others, like salmon, may spend some time in the state's rivers, but much of their lives are spent elsewhere. These and other factors need to be taken into account in assessing the risk of eating fish.

EPA Region 10 appears determined to force Oregon's approach as the model for all states, and is now signaling the states of Washington and Idaho that they should follow Oregon's lead or face disapproval of their new standards and potential intervention by EPA to impose federal rules in those states.

ASSUMED FISH CONSUMPTION RATE PER MONTH



EPA Region 10's guidance led Oregon to adopt an average fish consumption rate that's roughly equivalent to eating 30 cans of tuna each month.

## Where Are We In The Process?

Here's a brief timeline of where we've been – and where we are going – in setting new water quality standards in Idaho:

2000	MAY 2012	AUG 2012	APR 2013	MAY 2013	MAY 2013	MAY 2014	OCT 2014	JAN 2015	SUM 2015	NOV 2015	SPR 2016	MAY 2016
EPA provides federal-level guidance for states updating their water quality standards	EPA region 10 disapproves Idaho's water quality standards	Idaho launches rulemaking process as negotiated with EPA	Consultant hired to design survey of Idaho consumers to assess fish consumption rates. Funded by Idaho @ \$300k	Regulator coordination meetings begin between State of Idaho, EPA and tribes	Consultant hired to design survey of tribal members to assess their fish consumption. Funded by EPA @ \$3 million	Idaho fish consumption survey implemented	Analysis begins on data from Idaho fish consumption survey	Tribal survey data to be made available to State of Idaho	Proposed rule developed and presented for public input	Board presentation of proposed rule	Legislative presentation on proposed rule	EPA makes final decision on water quality standards

## Putting Risk In Context

Risk is inevitable. Over the course of a lifetime, we all face risks. The EPA Region 10 / Oregon standard represents an incremental cancer risk of one-in-a-million from consuming 12-13 pounds of fish each month. To put that figure in perspective, here are incremental one-in-a-million risks of dying from a selection of daily activities:

- Risk of cancer or heart disease from smoking 1.4 cigarettes
- Risk of a fatal accident from bicycling 10 miles
- Risk of a fatal car crash from driving 300 miles
- Risk of developing cancer from the radiation in 1 x-ray
- Risk of developing cancer from eating 40 tablespoons of peanut butter
- Risk of developing cancer from radiation from living 150 years within 20 miles of a nuclear power plant

Source: "Analyzing the Daily Risks of Life," by Richard Wilson, professor of physics, Harvard University, *Technology Review*, 1979

## What Can You Do to Help?

We all want to pass on a better, cleaner environment to our children and grandchildren. So we support attainable water quality standards that improve the state's waters, protect human health, and provide for a vibrant economy that benefits all Idahoans.

To adopt such standards, the State of Idaho must be allowed to complete a thorough, science-based process that draws on complete information, rather than rhetoric and scare tactics. This will provide for more realistic assumptions regarding fish consumption and other factors that drive the model for water quality standards.

Idaho's elected leaders should send a strong signal to EPA that they will oppose EPA Region 10 actions to impose unrealistic or unattainable standards that do not meet the unique needs of Idaho's citizens, businesses and local governments. They should also make it clear that they oppose any EPA intervention that attempts to supersede their responsibility to establish Idaho's clean water standards.

## What's Going On In Other States

Oregon was one of the first states to complete new water quality criteria using the 2000 EPA guidance and the extremely conservative input factors favored by Region 10. The impacts of Oregon's ultra-stringent criteria are just beginning to be felt as municipalities file for their permit renewals and adverse comments are already being received on those applications.

Washington is in the revision process. After initially indicating that the process would be completed in 2013, the State Department of Ecology now expects its rules to be finalized late in 2014. Governor Inslee has convened a stakeholder engagement process with business, labor, environmental groups and Native American tribes to gather additional input. Meanwhile, environmental groups have sued to force EPA to intervene in the state process.

Florida has used – and EPA has supported – a more scientifically advanced approach, called the probabilistic risk assessment model, to more accurately characterize risk and create standards that protect public health.

Despite EPA's approval of this approach, the agency has still insisted on some unrealistic assumptions regarding fish consumption and other factors. In 2013, Florida nearly completed its revisions and a new water quality standards package was submitted to the state's Environmental Regulation Commission for approval. The commission rejected the package, agreeing with stakeholder input that various provisions required by EPA needed better scientific support before adoption.

## What Is The Potential Economic Impact?

Oregon's standards are so restrictive that they cannot be met with any existing or reasonably foreseeable technologies to treat business or municipal wastewater. Thus, employers and local governments very likely will have to seek short-term exemptions, called "variances" or "implementation tools" for their water permits.

Unfortunately, even if granted these variances, these facilities will face uncertainty about the renewal of their permits and significantly increased costs. They will also face exposure to expensive, time-consuming third-party lawsuits attempting to force immediate compliance, even if the standard itself is unattainable.

These impacts will be seen in a number of ways. Local governments may have to pass on the increased costs in the form of higher utility rates or taxes. They may also declare a moratorium or place a limit on new sewer hook-ups, impeding homebuilding and other construction. Employers will have less ability to invest in job-creating plant expansions, and new companies looking to locate in an area may be unable to obtain the necessary permits.

A water quality standard won't really work for the people of Idaho unless it protects the environment and provides for a vibrant and growing economy.



IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 4d

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH**  
**FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR**  
**DATE: MAY 8, 2014**  
**RE: DRAFT ISWCC STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Commission is required by statute to submit an updated and adopted Strategic Plan to serve as a guidance document for the agency for the next four years. Staff updated this year's Plan by taking the FY 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, and making minor edits (reflected on the attached draft).

As has been the practice for the last three years, the draft was circulated for comments to a review committee (Steve Becker, Art Beal, Dennis Tanikuni, Benjamin Kelly/Bret Rumbeck, and Chris Simons) in mid-April. As of the deadline (May 5<sup>th</sup>), we've received only two comments back: from Art Beal and Chris Simons, both saying the draft is acceptable as submitted.

Staff requests your Board comments on the attached draft at your meeting, directing any necessary changes. We will circulate the draft Strategic Plan with any directed changes to all districts for comment prior to the June Board meeting when further changes can be made. The Board must adopt a final Strategic Plan at the June meeting to meet DFM's deadline of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For information only.

Attachments:

- Draft FY 2015-2018 ISWCC Strategic Plan

# FY 2015-2018 Strategic Plan

## 75 Years of Conservation the Idaho Way

Style Definition: TOC 3: Indent: First line:  
0.25"



SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

established  
1939

*Conservation the Idaho Way:  
Sowing seeds of Stewardship*

650 W. State Street, #145

Boise, Idaho 83702

208-332-1790 phone

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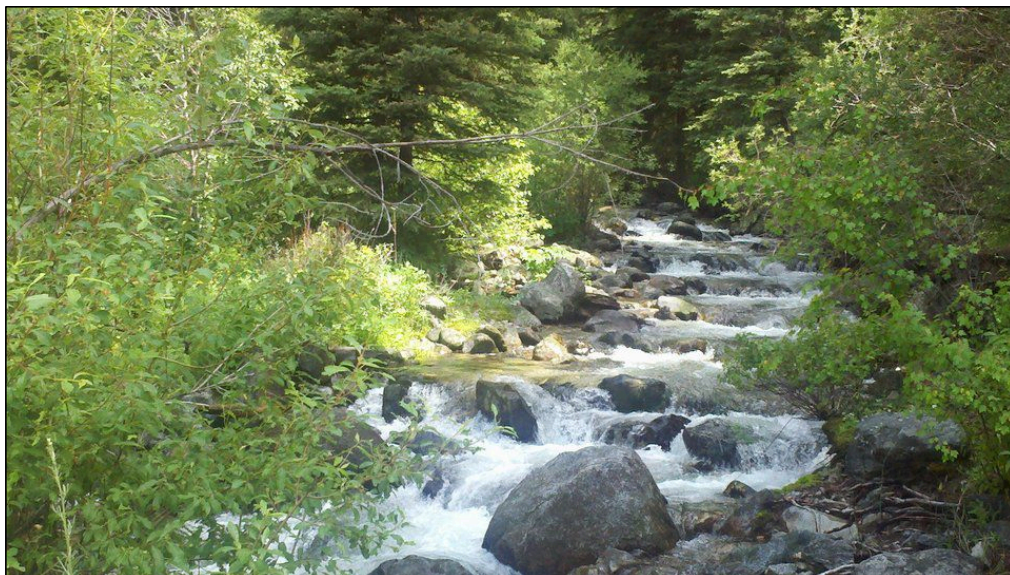
## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*PENDING*

H. Norman Wright, Chairman



*From left, ISWCC Engineer Bill Lillibridge, Chairman Norman Wright, and Loan Officer Terry Hoebelheinrich visit a Northern Idaho conservation project site.*



## INTRODUCTION: CONSERVATION THE IDAHO WAY

Idaho is endowed with a magnificent blend of diverse natural landscapes – rivers, lakes, mountains, forests and desert canyons – combined with rich and fertile agricultural lands well-suited for growing a wide variety of crops and raising livestock.

People who work in Idaho agriculture have deep roots in the land. We know that caring for the land will reap benefits for future generations. We are convinced that the best way to care for and enhance our soil, water, air, plants and wildlife is through voluntary, locally led efforts. Our guiding philosophy is to use the state's natural resources to benefit Idahoans while maintaining and improving those resources for future generations.

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (Conservation Commission) focuses

on Conservation the Idaho Way: voluntary stewardship, not regulatory mandates.

Conservation the Idaho way is locally led. In 1939 the Legislature established a bottom-up approach to voluntary conservation and today local people still lead local efforts. The Conservation Commission and our partners - local soil and water conservation districts (districts), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and others - combine efforts to assist farmers and ranchers engaged in voluntary stewardship activities. Together we are the heartbeat of voluntary conservation and partners in Idaho's oldest conservation movement.

The Conservation Commission was created as a state agency in 1939 during the Dust Bowl era to address significant soil erosion issues -- sheet erosion, wind erosion and severe gullying. A

1934 soil erosion survey in Idaho revealed that more than 27 million acres of land, or roughly half the state, had serious soil erosion problems.

The state's first order of business was to help form soil conservation districts at the county level. Farmers and ranchers were elected directors of the districts, providing leadership on project priorities. As districts formed, NRCS and the Conservation Commission provided technical assistance to assist with stewardship projects.

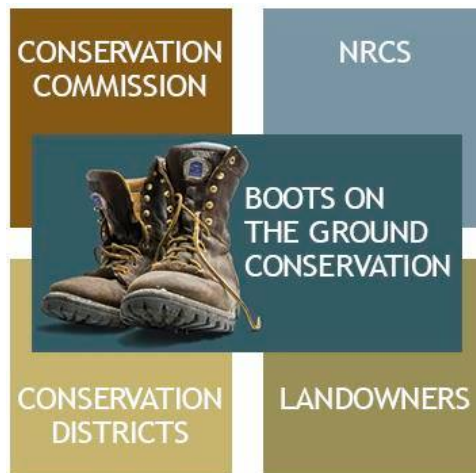
Today there are 50 local soil and water conservation districts located from Bonners Ferry to Montpelier. Their efforts are guided by 5-year plans containing conservation goals and prioritized projects and activities. We provide

funding and technical staff to empower districts - the boots on the ground - to get things done.

We incentivize responsible stewardship by providing cost sharing and technical expertise. Proactive, non-regulatory projects are beneficial because they address issues of concern and help avoid costly lawsuits and onerous regulations.

While we began working 75 years ago to reduce soil erosion, our efforts now include soil, water, plants, air, and animal conservation activities, as well. This FY2015-2018 Strategic Plan provides a detailed roadmap for sowing our seeds of stewardship across this great State of Idaho.

Teri Murrison, Administrator



## KEY EXTERNAL FACTORS

There are key external factors that could affect the agency's ability to meet goals and objectives. They include:

- State and federal regulatory pressure and mandates that could shift priorities and resources away from current activities.
- Changing economics of agriculture, which could result in significant increases or decreases in conservation program participation.
- Changing economics of state and federal budgets, which could result in additional agency cuts or fewer conservation dollars being spent in the state.

## MISSION

To facilitate coordinated non-regulatory, voluntary, and locally-led conservation by federal, state, and local governments including Idaho's conservation districts and other partners to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

## VISION

Conservation in Idaho reflects locally-led natural resource conservation leadership and priorities, is voluntary and incentive-based, non-regulatory, and demonstrates scientifically sound stewardship. The Conservation Commission and local conservation districts are the primary entities to lead coordinated conservation efforts to provide landowners and land-users with assistance and solutions for natural resource concerns and issues.



## PHILOSOPHY

The Conservation Commission is dedicated to guiding principles for each goal and related activity.

- Satisfy legislative intent and statute
- Benefit the environment and Idaho's agricultural-based economy
- Benefit conservation districts' locally led, voluntary, non-regulatory priorities and projects
- Benefit the Commission's ability to serve
- Promote fiscal responsibility
- Strengthen existing and build new conservation partnerships
- Incorporate valid scientific data and practices

## PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

### GOAL #1: PROMOTE VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION BY PROVIDING TECHNICAL AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES TO IDAHO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The Conservation Commission provides leadership and assistance to local conservation districts as established in Title 22 Chapter 27, Idaho Code.

#### OBJECTIVE # 1.1: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DISTRICTS.

Allocate available technical staff time to provide specific and other technical assistance to districts as resources permit—~~technical services also include some current and future grant and project obligations consistent with Conservation Commission priorities and objectives. Support services may include:~~

Specialized Technical Assistance is defined as: That technical assistance used to support districts in the wise use and enhancement of natural resources which can only be provided by someone possessing a specialized, science-based skill set and an ability to integrate local knowledge of the site-specific interactions between environmental, economic, cultural and social concerns into the assistance provided.

Examples of Specialized Technical Assistance may include but are not limited to:

- Conservation planning
- Engineering services
- Project implementation and construction inspections
- BMP effectiveness monitoring
- Watershed planning and riparian assessments

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Provide technical assistance and engineering services as capacity and resources allow.  
Conduct annual technical assistance allocation request and award process for known district projects, and allocate discretionary staff hours to accommodate unforeseen district projects and to provide flexibility.
  - Benchmark: Maximize available staff hours to serving district requests for technical assistance (via technical assistance request process and field staff discretionary time allocations) after meeting statutory and program obligations.
  - Benchmark: Maintain field staff presence at district Board meetings ~~as resources allow~~ a minimum of once per quarter.
- Annually inventory and award available field staff hours to provide technical and engineering assistance to assist districts with new and existing projects and maximize number of landowners served. Conduct Conservation Commission, district, region, IASCD, and partner technical assistance needs assessment and capacity inventories.
  - Benchmark: Conduct Conservation Commission technical assistance needs assessment and capacity inventories.

- Benchmark: Oversee planning for Conservation Commission staffing, prepare annual agency work plan, maintain technical assistance capacity inventory.
- Convene ad hoc stakeholder workgroup(s) in each Division to rank and recommend provision of technical assistance to districts.
  - Benchmark: Utilize workgroup(s) to annually review the technical assistance allocation process and recommend changes
  - Benchmark: Compile list of recommended ranked and prioritized district requests for technical assistance.
  - Benchmark: Document provision of district technical assistance in annual performance measures report.

**OBJECTIVE # 1.2: STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO DISTRICTS.**

Distribute district allocations pursuant to Idaho Code 22-2727 and IDAPA 60.05.04 Rules for Allocation of Funds to Conservation Districts (annually).

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

- Distribute base allocations to districts in compliance with reporting requirements set forth in IDAPA 60.05.04.
  - Benchmark: Distribute ~~base allocations~~ by July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  - Distribute \$50,000 in operating funds annually to each district (\$1,000 per district).
    - Benchmark: Distribute by July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  - Distribute \$50,000 annually to districts for capacity building and outreach purposes.
    - Benchmark: Commissioners set awards for following fiscal year by June 15<sup>th</sup>
    - Benchmark: Distribute by July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
    - Benchmark: Districts awarded capacity building funds in the previous fiscal year report on their use to Commission by August 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- Determine local matching funds by district and distribute annually to districts.
  - Benchmark: Provide assistance to districts to support the development and submission of materials required under IDAPA 60.05.04.
  - ~~Benchmark: As needed, assist with or provide training to districts.~~
  - Benchmark: Districts submit reports detailing local matching funds by August 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
  - Benchmark: Convene workgroup annually to review Financial & Match Reports, and make recommendations to Conservation Commission by August 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.
  - Benchmark: Distribute state matching funds to districts by September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- ~~Distribute match allocations to districts in compliance with reporting requirements set forth in IDAPA 60.05.04.~~
  - ~~Benchmark: Distribute 90% of match allocations no later than November 30th annually. Distribute remaining 10% by April 1<sup>st</sup> annually.~~

**OBJECTIVE # 1.3: COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES TO DISTRICTS.**

Assist and provide services that encourage capacity development to independently and collectively strengthen districts.

Comprehensive District Assistance is defined as: That assistance which supports the independent and collective strengthening of conservation districts by: a) providing services which expand resources or otherwise enhance district capacity to assist private landowners and land users in the conservation, sustainment, improvement and enhancement of Idaho's natural resources, or; b) providing assistance required to support routine district activities or projects.

Examples of comprehensive assistance MAY include but are not limited to:

- District information and outreach activities
- Administration of district-sponsored cost-share programs
- Development of a district needs assessment
- Grant writing assistance
- Development of 5-year and annual work plans

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Identify and document unmet needs for funding water quality improvement projects related to ~~listed~~ impaired waterbodies as identified and prioritized in 5-year and other district plans.
  - Benchmark: Conduct district budget hearing by June 15<sup>th</sup> annually.
- Provide capacity building services and/or funding to districts as resources allow.
  - Benchmark: If funds are available, by June 15<sup>th</sup> of each year solicit district requests for funding for capacity building activities.

## GOAL #2: PROMOTE VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION BY PROVIDING VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

### OBJECTIVE # 2.1: INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Support non-regulatory, science-based conservation incentive programs to accelerate the development of voluntary projects and practices throughout the state.

#### 2.1.1 RESOURCE CONSERVATION & RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (RCRDP).

Administer low interest conservation loan program promoting increased conservation benefits to ~~agricultural~~ croplands, woodlands, and rangelands within the state and provide financial assistance to eligible applicants for the implementation of resource management projects.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Administer and further develop the loan program to meet statewide conservation efforts.
  - Benchmark: Maintain or improve annual levels of funding.
- Monitor and evaluate loan policies on ongoing basis to ensure continued accountability and recommend improvements, if necessary.

- Benchmark: Evaluate existing and new loan policies annually (RCRDP Loan Committee) and make recommendations to Board.
- Monitor timeliness of loan review process as established by Conservation Commission.
  - Benchmark: Conduct bi-annual tracking of two loan applications and report results to Conservation Commission.
- Promote RCRDP program.
  - Benchmark: Develop and update marketing plan annually.
  - Benchmark: Provide regular training to all field staff and districts as identified in Marketing Plan.

#### 2.1.2 STATE REVOLVING FUND

Upon request, assist the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with their water quality loan program addressing non-point source pollution.

##### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Administer existing and/or future loans.
  - Benchmark: Service and track one loan.
  - ~~○ Determine potential to administer additional loans under SRF.~~
  - ~~○ Benchmark: Report to Conservation Commission on potential for future program funding, and pursue if appropriate.~~

#### 2.1.3 WATER QUALITY PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE (WQPA)

Actively pursue funding opportunities as identified.

##### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Evaluate future funding and operation and actively pursue, if appropriate.
  - Benchmark: Report annually on potential for future program funding, and pursue if appropriate.

#### 2.1.4 CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

This currently unfunded program has financed conservation projects in the past by providing cost sharing for the installation of conservation practices. Evaluate feasibility of continuing program.

##### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Evaluate future funding and operation and actively pursue, if appropriate.
  - Benchmark: Report annually to Conservation Commission on potential for future funding and operation and actively pursue, if appropriate.

#### ~~2.1.5 WORKING LANDSCAPES CONSERVATION PROGRAM~~

~~Evaluate feasibility of outcomes-based program as an alternative to regulations/permanent conservation easements and that provides incentives for landowners to improve water quality, and conserve working landscapes, and other beneficial uses of lands and natural resources.~~

~~PERFORMANCE MEASURES~~

- ~~○ Evaluate feasibility of establishing a Working Landscapes Conservation Program.~~
- ~~○ Benchmark: Report on status of similar projects and identify possible funding sources.~~

OBJECTIVE # 2.2: CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Provide policy and program mechanisms that enhance the environmental quality and economic productivity of the state.

2.2.1 CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP).

Provide technical leadership and oversight to improve water quantity and quality, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce ground water use, and decrease agriculture-related chemical and sediment runoff to the waters of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Serve as lead agency for statewide CREP program.
  - Benchmark: Continue working to achieve goals and objectives for the CREP program as outlined in the 2006 agreement with the USDA Farm Service Agency.
  - Benchmark: Continue working to achieve increased program goals as outlined in CREP 2011 annual report
  - ~~○ Benchmark: Update agency's CREP goals and create implementation plan~~
  - ~~○ Benchmark: Investigate feasibility of enhancing Idaho OnePlan for interagency CREP data sharing and reporting.~~
  - Benchmark: Submit annual report to Farm Service Agency and other partners.
  - Benchmark: Conduct annual leadership and regular interagency meetings.

2.2.2 TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING.

~~Continue TMDL watershed planning and implementation as the designated agency for agriculture and grazing pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act (PL 92-500), Idaho State Statutes 39-3601 and 39-3602, the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan, and the State of Idaho Guidance for the Development of TMDLs. Lead efforts to address agricultural and grazing components of TMDL Implementation Plan development for water quality impaired surface waters in the state.~~

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- In coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), complete existing TMDL Agricultural Implementation Plans, initiate new plans or addendums, and assist with five-year reviews on existing DEQ Sub-basin Assessment (SBA) TMDLs.

- Benchmark: Complete TMDL Agricultural Implementation Plans within 18 months of TMDL approval.
- Benchmark: Conduct annual Interagency meeting with EPA, DEQ, NRCS, and other partners
- Benchmark: Provide technical assistance to districts with demonstrated need for implementation of BMPs outlined in TMDL agricultural implementation plans, as resources allow.
- Benchmark: Support partner priorities and funding initiatives as resources allow.
- Benchmark: Conduct annual meetings with six DEQ regional offices to coordinate TMDL activities.

### 2.2.3 IDAHO GROUND WATER QUALITY PLAN.

Facilitate cooperative ground water protection programs in conjunction with other state agencies pursuant to a 2008 Interagency Cooperative Agreement. Promote and support implementation of water quality projects across the state to maintain and enhance ground water quality.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Assist districts with demonstrated need in planning and implementation efforts in Nitrate Priority Areas to reduce nitrate contamination, as districts request through the technical assistance allocation planning process and as resources allow.
  - Benchmark: Conduct planning and implementation to meet responsibilities as outlined in the Cooperative Agreement and in coordination with the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan.
  - Benchmark: Deliver annual reports to Board on progress.

### 2.2.4 IDAHO AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION ABATEMENT PLAN.

Lead effort to update and maintain guidance document in support of control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Update (every ten years) and maintain guidance documents in support of the control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution as resources allow.
  - ~~Benchmark: Secure funding and support to update the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan.~~
  - ~~Benchmark: Provide training to staff on BMP Effectiveness Guide.~~
  - ~~Benchmark: Issue RFP to qualified proposers and Award contract to update the Plan in FY 2015.~~
  - ~~Benchmark: Develop Project Work Plan, coordinate with agencies, form Ag Water Quality Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees to provide input and review drafts.~~
  - ~~Conduct public meetings to review draft plan and solicit input.~~

- Adopt final Updated Ag Pollution Abatement Plan, present to Governor.
- ~~Benchmark: Convene BMP working group as needed.~~

#### 2.2.5 IDAHO ONEPLAN.

Provide for the establishment and enhancement of Idaho OnePlan as a primary computer-based conservation planning process and repository for natural resource concerns.

##### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Encourage and promote the use of OnePlan within Idaho.
  - Benchmark: Conduct annual Executive Committee meeting
- ~~Search-Monitor sources offer~~ funding to create online enhancements.
  - Benchmark: Report to OnePlan Executive Committee and Conservation Commission Board on potential for enhancements, ongoing funding, and operation.
  - Benchmark: Evaluate ~~timing and consider update to relevant~~ statute ~~for specific to determine need to adjust~~ requirements for steering committee, etc. and ensure flexibility for continued participation and funding.

#### 2.2.6 CARBON SEQUESTRATION.

Under Idaho statute, Conservation Commission is the lead agency for a currently inactive program related to carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with agricultural and forestry practices, management systems, and land uses occurring on cropland, forest land, and rangeland in Idaho.

##### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Seek to identify potential funding sources.
  - Benchmark: Monitor ongoing carbon issues and determine annually feasibility of and funding for re-activating program.
  - Benchmark: Evaluate ~~timing annually to and~~ consider proposing changes to Idaho Code to delete specific requirements for committee meetings and membership or reconvene planning group upon securing funding for program.

#### 2.2.7 WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS.

Oversee the creation and discontinuance of watershed improvement districts throughout the state.

##### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Oversee creation and discontinuance of watershed improvement districts as provided for in statute.
  - Benchmark: As necessary, perform duties specified in statute for formation and dissolution of districts.

### GOAL #3: INFORM AND EDUCATE STAKEHOLDERS, BUILDING SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION AND SWCC

Inform partners, local, state and federal agency officials and others about the Conservation Commission's mission. Develop beneficial intergovernmental and other relationships to maximize resources, funding, and streamline conservation delivery that is consistent with locally led, voluntary, and non-regulatory conservation plans and policies and harmonizes with regulatory efforts in an effort to meet statewide conservation goals. Educate local, state, and federal officials about Conservation Commission and partner efforts.

#### OBJECTIVE 3.1 PARTNER PARTICIPATION

Engage districts and other partners in programs and activities. Seek to expand involvement in consideration and decision making. Disseminate information about services and activities of the Conservation Commission, encourage and increase district and public knowledge and participation in activities and processes.

##### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Increase Conservation Commission transparency through greater access.
  - Benchmark: Post online agendas, supporting documentation, and meeting minutes for Conservation Commission meetings
  - Benchmark: Where feasible, utilize live online video streaming and interactive stakeholder participation to increase district and public participation in meetings and processes.
- Disseminate information to encourage partner participation in planning processes.
  - Benchmark: Distribute meeting and activities announcements to our audience using Commission website, distribution lists, and social media accounts.
  - Benchmark: Include important district/Commission news and updates in newsletter monthly.

#### OBJECTIVE 3.2 INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Inform and educate the public, partners, and others on Conservation Commission activities. Work with IASCD and the districts to publicize the successes of locally led voluntary, non-regulatory conservation efforts in Idaho.

##### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Update Legislature and Executive Branch
  - Benchmark: Deliver annual reports to legislature germane committees, JFAC.
  - Benchmark: Deliver annual reports (performance measurements, etc.) to Governor
- Develop strategy for educating the public and other stakeholders about Conservation Commission activities.
  - Benchmark: Promote voluntary conservation ~~during Conservation Commission's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year~~ via monthly newsletters.
  - Benchmark: Conduct annual district and partner survey in July each year.
  - Benchmark: Maintain frequently updated Facebook pages and posts on Twitter.

- Facilitate flow of information and communication with staff.
  - Benchmark: Distribute monthly activities summary/talking points to staff.
  - Benchmark: Hold annual All Staff meeting and trainings.

### OBJECTIVE 3.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Facilitate non-regulatory, voluntary, and locally-led conservation activities by and between local, state, and federal governments.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Work with partners
  - Benchmark: Identify potential new partnerships and resources.
  - Benchmark: Coordinate with NRCS State Engineer on approval authority issues; propose changes to Standards and Specifications if necessary.
  - Benchmark: Work with other state and federal agencies regarding technical assistance and engineering on TMDLs, WQPA, RCRDP, Ground Water Priority Areas, etc.
- Review federal, state, and local policies that are determined to impact the Conservation Commission and/or districts; review proposed and adopted plans, programs, environmental documents, activities and initiatives affecting conservation efforts.
  - Benchmark: Convene advisory group as needed to make recommendation to Commissioners as needed.
  - Benchmark: Develop policies as needed.

### OBJECTIVE 3.4 COLLABORATION

Collaborate with stakeholders to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance Idaho's private and public lands.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Collaborate with stakeholders including the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), and the Idaho District Employees Association (IDEA) to advance on the ground conservation in Idaho.
  - Benchmark: Attend IASCD meetings including: annual conference, spring and fall division meetings, and Board meetings, as requested.
  - Benchmark: Conduct annual district listening session to solicit input from partners.
- Collaborate with IDEA to advance and promote district employee training opportunities.
  - Benchmark: Assist IDEA with employee training opportunities, as requested.
- Collaborate with resource and agricultural production groups to disseminate information on Conservation Commission activities and conservation planning and implementation activities.
  - Benchmark: Attend other association meetings including Food Producers meetings weekly during legislative session.

- Benchmark: Participate in natural resource groups and processes to focus attention on the roles, policies, and plans of the Conservation Commission and districts to attract partners and resources.
- Benchmark: Attend Environmental Forum and other similar meetings monthly.
- Participate in, speak at, and attend field trips and tours, annual conferences, attend meetings, conferences, and other functions to represent the Conservation Commission and promote good stewardship of Idaho's natural resources.
  - Benchmark: Attend events as appropriate and present as requested.



C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

H. Norman Wright, Chair

Roger Stutzman, Vice Chair

Gerald Trebesch, Secretary

David Radford, Member

~~Dick Bronson~~ Leon Slichter, Member

Teri Murrison, Administrator



IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 4e

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT AND COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH**  
**FROM: TERI MURRISON, ADMINISTRATOR**  
**DATE: MAY 8, 2014**  
**RE: AMENDED FY 2015 BUDGET BLUEPRINT**

Last month your Board approved a FY 2015 Budget Blueprint detailing both revenues and expenditures, and set General Fund amounts for district allocations in base, local match, operating, and capacity building categories. Unfortunately, the amount of base and local match allocations did not factor in the fact that the Jefferson SWCD this year received its third and final double base funding allocation as a result of consolidation with the Mud Lake District.

In FY 2015, Jefferson District will receive an \$8,500 base allocation in FY 2015, reducing the total base funding allocation to \$425,000. The \$8,500 remainder has been added to match funding, raising that category's total allocation to \$678,200.

The attached Amended Draft FY 2015 Budget Blueprint spreadsheet shows the amended distribution of Trustee and Benefit Funds.

**ACTION:** Approve Amended FY 2015 General Fund Blueprint, including setting Trustee and Benefit fund distribution at: \$425,000 in base funding, \$678,200 in match formula funding, \$50,000 in Operating funding, and \$50,000 in Capacity Building funding.

**Attachment:** Amended Draft FY 2015 Budget Draft Blueprint

**FY 2015 IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**AMENDED General Fund Budget Blueprint**

<b>HB 614</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Trustee &amp; Benefit Funds (base, formula, &amp; capacity building)</b>	<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$1,043,300	\$240,500	\$44,000	\$1,203,200	\$ 2,531,000

<b>SWC Budget</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Contingency</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>District Allocations</b>				<b>TOTAL</b>
					<b>Base Funding</b>	<b>Match Funding</b>	<b>Operating Funding</b>	<b>Capacity Building</b>	
	\$1,043,300	\$238,100	\$2,400	\$44,000	\$425,000	\$678,200	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$2,531,000

**Operating Highlights**

*Assumes SWCAP expenses including SCO, AG, STO estimated at \$43,600*

*Assumes appropriate amount of SWCAP, administrative (including postage, phone, rent expense, etc. ), and IT services charged to GF, RCRDP, & SRF*

*Ongoing expenses for MOU with Admin for HR, IT, fiscal support assumed to match FY 2014 actuals*

*Assumes general fund pays all of NRCS desk space and federal IT support*

*Small 1% operating contingency budgeted. Can be increased with personnel or operating cost savings or from dedicated funds (excluding RCRDP fund)*

**Personnel Highlights**

*Assumes fully staffed in general fund at 13.9 FTPs (2.1 FTPs in dedicated fund) 2 part time temporary, all projected personnel costs fall within budget with small contingency*

*Assumes some related field staff and administrative time in RCRDP fund*

**Trustee/Benefits Highlights (District Allocations, Capacity Building)**

*Base allocation due to Jefferson District returns to \$8,500 (vs. double base allocations for past 3 years due to consolidation with Mud Lake District), reducing overall base funding allocations by \$8,500,*

*Match funding increases by \$8,500*

*Match formula for FY 2015 is an estimated state match of 1.16:1 based on FY 2013 local match (inc. \$50k cap). Final TBD from actual FY 2014 local match*

	<b>FY13 Local Match</b>	
	<b>\$</b>	<b>619,700</b>
state/local match ratio	\$	1.18



## IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Item # 5a

**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS RADFORD, STUTZMAN, TREBESCH, AND SLICHTER**  
**FROM: DELWYNE TREFZ, ADMINISTRATOR**  
**DATE: MAY 6, 2014**  
**RE: 1. DISTRICT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS, REVIEW PROCESS & TIMELINE**  
**2. DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL DISTRICT SURVEY**

### **1. DISTRICT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS, REVIEW PROCESS & TIMELINE**

Districts have submitted requests for FY2015 SWCC assistance totaling 10,855 hours as shown below.

<b>District Requests for FY2015 SWCC Assistance</b>	
Number of districts requesting SWCC assistance	40
Number of individual projects districts request help with	128
Requested SWCC staff hours, total statewide	10,855
Available SWCC staff hours, total statewide	5,351

Requests have been prioritized according to the process selected by each individual Division and the Division-level evaluation teams have submitted their recommendations for the allocation of available SWCC assistance. We are grateful to each evaluation team member for the time they committed to this process. A brief summary of each Division's recommendations follows:

#### **DIVISION 1:**

Division 1 districts requested 1,042 total hours of SWCC staff time to assist with 14 different projects. Bill Lillibridge has enough hours allocated to Division 1 to provide the 240 hours of engineering assistance requested. Mark Hogen has 426 hours available to service the remaining 802 hours of requests. The evaluation team assigned a priority ranking of "1" to each project and recommends we divide the available 426 hours equally amongst districts' technical assistance project requests, (allocating a total of 106.5 hours per district).

#### **DIVISION 2:**

Division 2 districts requested assistance with 24 different projects totaling 2,780 hours of Eileen Rowan's time, and 1,360 of Bill Lillibridge's. The evaluation team recommends allocating 402 of Eileen's hours to Lewis SCD, 402 to Idaho SWCD, and 142 to Clearwater SWCD while allocating all 253 of Bill's hours to Nez Perce SWCD.



## IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### DIVISION 3:

Division 3 districts requested 1,635 total hours to assist with 29 different projects. The Division chose to have their requests ranked by SWCC staff. Because Loretta Strickland has enough hours available to provide the 830 hours requested by districts she serves, staff recommend allocating Loretta's hours according to district requests. Districts served by Jason Miller requested 86 more hours than he has available, so staff prioritized the requests using the lists of criteria for evaluating requests and recommend allocating Jason's hours according to the prioritization, i.e., begin with the top ranked request and continue down the list, allocating the full number of hours requested to each request until Jason's 486 available hours have all been allocated.

### DIVISION 4:

Division 4 districts requested assistance with 18 projects totaling 1,060 hours of assistance. The evaluation team applied their knowledge of local conditions and common sense to develop a recommendation regarding how SWCC might allocate the 477 hours of available field staff time equitably. They recommend that all districts get some, but no districts get all, of the assistance hours requested.

### DIVISION 5:

Division 5 districts requested 2,757 hours of assistance—1,060 of Allan Johnson's engineering and 1,697 of Steven Smith's district assistance. The evaluation team recommends denying 3 of the 14 requests submitted by Franklin SWCD and assigned a priority ranking of "1" to each of the remaining 32 requests from Division 5 districts. Denial of the three Franklin requests was based on the fact that the evaluation team believed the projects were not strongly related to natural resources conservation.

The evaluation team recommends the available SWCC staff hours be allocated as follows.

- Allocate hours equal to 10% of requested hours to each request for comprehensive assistance
- Allocate hours equal to 45.2% of requested hours to each request for Steven's TA
- Allocate hours equal to 68% of requested hours to each request for Allan's engineering assistance

Allocating hours according to this recommendation will utilize all Allan and Steven's available hours.

### DIVISION 6:

Division 6 requested 217 hours of assistance. Most requests are for SWCC staff attendance at district meetings. The evaluation team recommends allocating the 201 available hours in such a way as to allow SWCC staff to attend 6 – 8 meetings/district/year. This is in addition to the 4 meetings/district/year which have already been allocated for.

### TIMELINE:

- May—each division-level recommendation will be considered as SWCC staff finalize fy2015 field staff hour's allocations.
- June 2—deadline for informing each district of how many SWCC hours have been allocated to their requests.

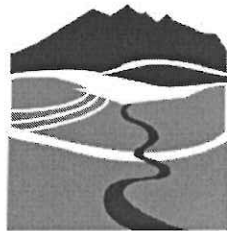


IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
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## **2. DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL DISTRICT SURVEY**

The annual district survey will be distributed to districts in May. Surveys are due back to SWCC by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For information only



## IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### COMMISSION

Item 5b1

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Roger Stutzman  
Vice Chairman

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Dave Radford  
Commissioner

Leon Slichter  
Commissioner

Teri A. Murrison  
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**TO: CHAIRMAN WRIGHT, COMMISSIONERS STUTZMAN, RADFORD, SLICHTER, AND TREBESCH**  
**FROM: TERRY HOEBELHEINRICH, LOAN OFFICER**  
**DATE: May 6, 2014**  
**RE: RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RANGELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Since your last meeting, the following activities have conducted by staff:

Marketing (historical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No Activity</li></ul>
Marketing (planned)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop FY 2015 Marketing Plan and Budget</li></ul>
Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 loan inquiries have been received since the last update</li><li>• No new loan applications</li><li>• 2 loans approved</li><li>• A-687, \$7,827, irrigation</li><li>• A-686, \$21,300, irrigation</li></ul>
Delinquencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 delinquencies, with details to be provided in Executive Session</li></ul>

**ACTION:** For Information Only

FY14 RCRDP - MARCH 2014		
YEAR TO DATE		
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE at 02/28/2014	\$ 6,207,237.14	\$ 5,747,220.29
Increase of Funds	March 2014	Fiscal Year 2014
2515 - Interest Income:	\$ 1,824.99	\$ 12,155.36
2523 - Loan Interest:	\$ 15,699.53	\$ 132,080.69
2535 - Default Interest: (late fees)	\$ 345.45	\$ 2,786.12
Principal payments received	\$ 80,098.02	\$ 970,883.00
Suspense - payment not yet reported	\$ -	\$ 797.42
Expenditure Adjustment (rvs pcard charges)	\$ 3.00	\$ 49.32
Professional Services Refund	\$ -	\$ -
Payroll Expenditure Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -
Loan Refunds	\$ 14.13	\$ 224.14
TOTAL INCREASES	97,985.12	1,118,976.05
ADJUSTED CASH BALANCE	\$ 6,305,222.26	
Decrease of Funds		
Personnel Costs	\$ (11,348.34)	\$ (109,693.08)
Operating Expense	\$ (5,230.60)	\$ (45,600.55)
P Card Payment	(\$3,700.04)	\$ (5,388.12)
Expenditure Not Encumbered	\$ -	\$ (2,141.88)
State Holdback		
Loan Disbursements	\$ -	\$ (417,652.00)
Capital Outlay	\$ -	
Suspense Cleared	\$ -	\$ (567.42)
Refund of Revenue	\$ -	\$ -
Refund from loan Payments	\$ (14.13)	\$ (224.14)
TOTAL DECREASES	(20,293.11)	(581,267.19)
ENDING CASH BALANCE at 03/31/2014	\$ 6,284,929.15	\$ 6,284,929.15
3% Minimum Contingency Reserve		\$ (114,772.90)
P Card Liability		\$ (1,142.34)
Funds Approved - Not Disbursed		\$ (18,428.40)
FUNDS AVAILABLE TO LOAN		\$ 6,150,585.51
Pending Approval		\$ -
Funds Available		\$ 6,150,585.51
LOAN STATUS REPORT: MARCH 2014		
Outstanding Principal Loan Balance		\$ 3,905,861.45
Disbursements		\$ -
Principal payments made		\$ (80,098.02)
Adjustments to STARS balance		
ADJUSTED PRINCIPAL LOAN BALANCE as of 03/31/2014	\$ 3,825,763.43	
Previous report number of active loans	103	
New Loans	0	
Loans Paid Off	-2	
Current Month number of active loans	101	
Past Due Accounts	2	